SEZs in Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal

3368. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any measures to establish Special Economic Zone in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of projects likely to be opened by Government in most backward and Hilly areas in these States, State-wise, District-wise and Block-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for the Central Government to set up any new Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and the policy of the Government is to encourage and facilitate the establishment of SEZs in the private sector or joint sector in association with the State Government or by the State Governments themselves. Relaxation with regard to the minimum area requirement for setting up of the SEZs, has been provided under SEZ Rules, 2006 for Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh. In-principle approval has been granted for setting up of a multi-product SEZ at Kangra, Himachal Pradesh.

(c) Since the SEZs are to be established in the private/joint sector or by the State Government, it may not be possible to estimate the number of SEZs likely to be set up in the backward and hilly areas.

Aquaculture cluster scheme in Andhra Pradesh

3369. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCEAND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested Government for expeditious sanction for Aquaculture cluster scheme as submitted by them for the areas from Bhimavaram to Visakhapatnam, along the coast to develop Shrimp Industry in India;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to sanction the scheme at the earliest in view of heavy foreign export potentialities in the Shrimp Industry of this coastal area; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) A proposal for infrastructure development/upgradation for the Aquaculture Cluster, Bhimavaram-Visakhapatnam zone under the Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS) was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Since the proposal was not in conformity with the parameters for IIUS, the same could not be sanctioned and a communication to this effect was sent to Government of Andhra pradesh in June, 2005.

Modernisation and integrated development of leather sector

3370. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been approved to support moderanisation and integrated development of leather sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme would be redesigned to assist the small scale sector more;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has notified a comprehensive scheme titled "Integrated Development of Leather Sector" (IDLS) for modernization and technology upgradation in all the segments of the Leather Industry, *viz.,* tanneries, footwear, footwear components, saddlery, leather goods and garments, with an outlay of Rs. 290 crore during the Tenth Plan Period. The assistance is available in the form of investment grant @ of 30% to SSI units and 20% to non-SSI units with a ceiling of Rs.50 lakh for both SSI & non-SSI units.

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3371. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: